

Comparison-Contrast Essay

“This novel is much better than that one.” “Which of these cameras takes better pictures?” Comparing and contrasting are important ways of understanding the world. Using this skill in writing strengthens that understanding. See for yourself by following the **Writer’s Road Map**.

WRITER’S ROAD MAP

Comparison-Contrast Essay

WRITING PROMPT 1

Writing from Literature Write an essay comparing and/or contrasting two literary works. Concentrate on key aspects of the literature, such as theme, setting, and characters, and explain how those key aspects affect the works’ overall meanings. Your reader should gain a new understanding of the works.

Literature to Compare

- “Two Friends” and “When Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine”
- “Do not weep, maiden, for war is kind” and “the sonnet-ballad”
- “Cranes” and “Two Friends”

WRITING PROMPT 2

Writing from the Real World Write an essay comparing two creative works that are especially interesting to you. Choose key aspects of the works as the basis of your comparison. You might consider setting, characters, time period, or theme as the focus of your comparison.

Sources to Consider

- two situation comedies on television
- two action-adventure movies
- two songs



WRITING TOOLS

For prewriting, revision, and editing tools, visit the **Writing Center** at ClassZone.com.

KEY TRAITS

1. IDEAS

- Clearly **identifies the works** being compared and/or contrasted
- Includes a **thesis statement** that identifies the similarities and/or differences
- Uses specific **examples** to support key ideas

2. ORGANIZATION

- Includes a strong **introduction** and a satisfying **conclusion**
- Follows a consistent **organizational pattern**
- Uses **transitional words and phrases**

3. VOICE

- Uses **appropriate language** for the audience and purpose

4. WORD CHOICE

- Uses **precise words** to explain similarities and differences

5. SENTENCE FLUENCY

- Uses many different **sentence beginnings** for pacing and variety

6. CONVENTIONS

- Employs **correct grammar and usage**

